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Free lead testing event for dogs in Flint water crisis

By Roberto Acosta, MLIVE 04/04/16 3:10 PM

The Humane Society of Genesee County is set to hold a free dog lead testing event in partnership with the Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine. The free dog lead testing event has been scheduled from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, April 16 at the humane society, 3325 S. Dort Hwy., in Burton.

Weekly Flint Water Report: March 26 - April 1

By Kevin Drum, Mother Jones 04/04/16 1:15 PM

Here is this week's Flint water report. As usual, I've eliminated outlier readings above 2,000 parts per billion, since there are very few of them and they can affect the averages in misleading ways. During the week, DEQ took 754 samples. The average for the past week was 15.84.

Flint's 'Lead Water' Poses Particular Threat to the Youngest

By Roni Caryn Rabin, New York Times 04/04/16 12:17 PM

Shanice Ollie is 18 weeks pregnant with her third child, so she's not taking any chances. No matter what city health officials say, she will not drink, cook, do dishes or wash with "lead water," which is how people here now refer to the tap water delivered to their homes. "They're saying it's O.K. to shower in it, and it's fine for dishwashing and clothes, but I don't believe them," said Mrs. Ollie, 31, motioning toward her cluttered kitchen, where cases of bottled water were stacked by the counter and three gargantuan garbage bags were overflowing with empty bottles for recycling. "They knew for a whole year and didn't do anything about it. I can't risk it."

Initiative hopes to provide 1 million glasses of milk for Flint families

By Roberto Acosta, MLIVE 04/04/16 1:52 PM

The United Dairy Industry of Michigan and Kroger has started an initiative to provide 1 million glasses of milk to families in Flint to try and combat the potential health consequences associated with the city's water crisis. Entitled flintmilk.org, the Flint Pediatric Public Health Initiative recommended a mission by the UDIM towards long-term dietary needs of children impacted by having ingested lead into their bodies through drinking water.

Detroit, Flint get more money for blight fight

By Jonathan Oosting, Detroit News 04/04/16 1:00 PM

Detroit will receive \$41.9 million in federal funding to fight blight and Flint \$13.9 million under a \$74.5 million state plan approved by the U.S. Department of Treasury. Gov. Rick Snyder announced approval Monday and said the state will use 75 percent of its total federal award to boost blight elimination efforts in Detroit and Flint.

Detroit Comedy holds benefit for Flint children

By Hannah Saunders, FOX 2 04/03/16 10:15 PM

A Detroit standup comedy showcase hosted a benefit Sunday evening to raise money for the children of Flint. Detroit Comedy Underground and other comedy groups are coming together for a good cause. "It's important because there's so much tied between Detroit and Flint and we wanted to do something more for it," said Lauren Uchalik, Detroit Comedy Underground producer.

Families to get food to help combat lead exposure caused by Flint water crisis

By Amanda Emery, MLIVE 04/02/16 5:00 PM

Flint families will have access to nutritious food that can limit the effect of lead exposure during mobile food pantry hours at locations throughout the city. The Food Bank of Eastern Michigan in Flint and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services have announced the April and May schedule for mobile food pantry stops to distribute foods rich in calcium, vitamin C and iron, according to a news release from MDHHS.

Flint mobile food bank stops announced

By Detroit News 04/01/16 11:12 PM

Families affected by the Flint water crisis can visit mobile food pantry stops across the city this month and in May for goods aimed at limiting the effect of lead exposure, officials announced Friday. The stops are through a partnership between the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan in Flint and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services that began in February. It's funded as part of Gov. Rick Snyder's \$28 million supplemental budget request approved in January.

Flint Related Lawsuits

Attorney: Water crisis strengthens case against EM law

By Louis Aguilar, Detroit News 04/04/16 7:48 AM

The legal challenge against Michigan's emergency manager law on claims that it racially discriminates has only been bolstered by the Flint water crisis, according to the head of a national civil rights group involved in a lawsuit against the measure. "It strengthens our case, it strengthens our conviction that removing democratic values and the democratic processes could

only lead to disaster,” said Vince Warren, executive director of the Center for Constitutional Rights. Warren, an attorney, and the New York-based center are advisers in the lawsuit that charges the emergency manager law is unconstitutional.

Flint, Detroit school crises stir fight over EM law

By Leonard Fleming, Detroit News 04/04/16 7:01 AM

A chorus of critics argues that the troubles in Flint and Detroit Public Schools prove Michigan’s emergency manager law needs wholesale changes or elimination — an idea Gov. Rick Snyder and the Republican-controlled Legislature have resisted. Snyder’s own bipartisan task force last month lambasted the role state-appointed emergency managers played in deciding to switch Flint’s drinking water source to the Flint River and failing to add corrosion controls that would have prevented lead contamination.

Flint will sue Michigan: City of Flint to sue State of Michigan Over Colossal Water Crisis

By Heather Tooley, InQuisitr 04/04/16

The city of Flint will sue Michigan over its colossal water crisis. The city filed a letter of intent to sue the state of Michigan, and Flint’s top attorneys say it’s already bereft of funds to defend itself against lawsuits. CNN reports that Flint’s newly appointed chief legal officer, Stacy Erwin Oakes, confirmed on Friday that the city filed a notice of intention to file suit for damage to the municipal water system and for related costs, most of which are legal.

Flint opens door to sue Michigan over water crisis; mayor says no suit now

By Sara Ganim & Kristina Sgueglia, CNN 04/02/16 5:35 PM

The City of Flint filed a letter of intent to sue the State of Michigan, with the city's top lawyer saying the already cash-strapped municipality lacks funds to defend itself against lawsuits filed amid the water crisis. The city's newly appointed chief legal officer, Stacy Erwin Oakes, said Friday the city filed a notice of intention to file suit for damage to the municipal water system and for associated costs, which are mainly legal.

Erin Brockovich, legal team to hold meeting in Flint on water crisis

By Amanda Emery, MLIVE 04/02/16 2:25 PM

The Flint Water Class Action Team and Erin Brockovich will be holding another community meeting for Flint residents affected by the water crisis. The famed environmental activist Brockovich is joining the legal team, along with water expert Bob Bowcock at the Dort Federal Event Center, 3501 Lapeer Road in Flint. The community meeting will be held from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.

Flint mayor says she has no plans to sue state but keeping option open

By Jiquanda Johnson, MLIVE 04/02/16 8:13 AM

A recent notice to potentially sue the state is only a move to "protect the future interest of the city," says Flint Mayor Karen Weaver. Weaver issued a April 1 statement saying she filed a "Notice of Intention to File Claim" so that if needed, the city will be able to sue the state in the future. Right now, there are no plans to sue Michigan and Weaver is still working with local, state and federal agencies to help find solutions for Flint's water crisis.

State to Flint: Withdraw lawsuit threat

By Paul Egan & Matthew Dolan, Detroit Free Press 04/01/16 6:40 PM

The State of Michigan on Friday urged the City of Flint to withdraw its notice of intent to sue the state over the lead contamination of the city's drinking water, saying the court filing is "legally unsupported" and creates "an unnecessary conflict between the parties that will damage ongoing efforts to resolve this crisis."

Snyder touts state's comeback to Macomb audience

By Kathleen Gray, Detroit Free Press 04/04/16 5:27 PM

Gov. Rick Snyder got an unlikely assist Monday when he traveled to Macomb County to tout Michigan's comeback even in the face of the significant challenges from the Flint water crisis and Detroit Public Schools. "The crisis in Flint is a truly tragic situation. We had a handful of experts with decades of experience in water quality making terrible decisions," he said. "They continually said the water was safe until October of last year with major consequences. I took responsibility for that and I should ... But you don't roll up into a ball. I'm committed to fixing the issues in Flint."

Bernie Sanders Raises Issue Of Flint

By WSJM FM 94.9 04/04/16

The city of Flint is back among the topics of discussion in the Democratic race for president. Bernie Sanders posted a question on his Facebook page asking how the U.S. has so much money to go to war in Iraq, but somehow can't rebuild pipes in Flint. Sanders is in a heated race with Hillary Clinton ahead of Tuesday's primary election in Wisconsin. Both candidates were in Flint last month. Some lead pipes in the city have been replaced as part of Flint Mayor Karen Weaver's Fast Start program that is using state money for the repairs.

Was the Flint water crisis just politics as usual for Clinton and Sanders?

By Bryn Mickle, MLIVE 04/04/16 6:09 AM

Nearly a month ago, I stood up at the Democratic presidential debate in Flint and asked Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders if they were using the Flint water crisis to score political points. I'm still not sure.

Bernie Sanders questions cost of Iraq war to Flint service line repairs

Roberto Acosta, MLIVE 04/03/16 6:19 PM

Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders is questioning the cost of repairing Flint's infrastructure in comparison to the dollars used for the war in Iraq. In a Sunday, April 3 Facebook post ahead of the Tuesday, April 5 Wisconsin primary against challenger Hillary Clinton during which 86 delegates are up for grabs, Sanders posed the question of the cost of the war and repairs for Flint.

Michigan Legislature's focus on Flint water and DPS

By Kathleen Gray, Detroit Free Press 04/03/16 9:50 PM

Most of state government, including the Legislature, has been focused on two critical and controversial issues: the Flint water crisis and the Detroit Public Schools district. And the action taken by the Legislature during the first quarter of the year, before lawmakers left for a two-week spring break, has been a mixed bag.

Flint task force points to DEQ as main culprit in lead poisoning

By Jim Bloch, The Voice 04/01/16

The Flint Water Advisory Task Force did not mince words in its 116-page final report on the lead poisoning of the residents of one of America's iconic industrial cities.

Other News & Opinions

Snyder touts state's comeback to Macomb audience

By Kathleen Gray, Detroit Free Press 04/04/16 5:27 PM

Gov. Rick Snyder got an unlikely assist Monday when he traveled to Macomb County to tout Michigan's comeback even in the face of the significant challenges from the Flint water crisis and Detroit Public Schools. "The crisis in Flint is a truly tragic situation. We had a handful of experts with decades of experience in water quality making terrible decisions," he said. "They continually said the water was safe until October of last year with major consequences. I took responsibility for that and I should ... But you don't roll up into a ball. I'm committed to fixing the issues in Flint."

Rolling Stone writer Matt Taibbi calls Flint water crisis a crime

By Bryn Mickle, MLIVE 04/04/16 2:54 PM

A Rolling Stone political writer had strong words for the city's water crisis at a stop in Flint on Monday, April 4. What happened to this community is a crime," said Taibbi, adding the crisis is unconscionable and unacceptable. Taibbi, an author who rose to prominence through his biting political analysis for Rolling Stone, was the final speaker at the 2015-16 Critical Issues Forums at the University of Michigan-Flint.

FLINT MICHIGAN WATER CONTAMINATION CRISIS ADDRESSED DURING NSWCA MEETING

By Long Island Exchange 04/04/16

At a recent Nassau Suffolk Water Commissioners' Association (NSWCA) meeting, guest speaker Mr. Paul J. Ponturo, P.E., Senior Water Resources Engineer with H2M Architects & Engineers in Melville, NY, discussed with Long Island water commissioners scientific

information and data regarding the water contamination crisis in Flint Michigan.

Researcher who exposed Flint water crisis at VMI symposium

By AP for Washington Times 04/04/16

The Virginia Tech professor who led a team of researchers that exposed the Flint, Michigan, water crisis is among the featured speakers at Virginia Military Institute's annual environmental symposium. Marc Edwards is a MacArthur "genius" grant recipient and one of the nation's top experts on water contamination. He will join Gov. Terry McAuliffe and others at the 27th edition of the Environment Virginia Symposium, which begins Tuesday in Lexington.

Flint's decline, Grand Rapids' success predicted in 70-year-old study

By Jim Harger, MLIVE 04/03/16 8:45 AM

In 1946, sociologist C. Wright Mills and economist Melville Ulmer concluded the fortunes of two of Michigan's largest cities, Flint and Grand Rapids, were headed in opposite directions. Seventy years later, their predictions are getting new notice from academics.

State warns of imposters posing as water officials in Flint

By Amanda Emery, MLIVE 04/01/16 9:31 PM

The state of Michigan is warning Flint residents to be on the lookout for people posing as water officials. Flint residents are asked to always request and check identification of visitors claiming to be water officials.

Beyond Flint

Flint Was Not the First: A Look at the History of the EPA & Why We Should Have Predicted Flint

By Sophia Buchanan, Huffington Post 04/04/16 4:28 PM [video clip]

I arrived on The Hill as those testifying were being sworn in. As soon as former Head of the EPA Susan Hedman began her testimony surrounding the issues of water cleanliness, however, my attention was secured.

A tale of two cities: Porter Ranch, Flint show ineptitude, lack of preparation

By Ben Reicher, HS Insider LA Times 04/04/16

One crisis is in the air, the other in the water. One is in affluent Porter Ranch, Calif., the other in poverty-stricken Flint, Mich. And yet, in both the Aliso Canyon gas leak and the Flint water contamination crisis, the official responses were doomed to be inadequate due to lack of preparation and proactivity, and the long-term effects on the public of both disasters are similarly predictable.

Before Flint: D.C.'s drinking water crisis was even worse

By Neal Augenstein, WTOP 04/04/16 2:53 AM

Lessons learned the hard way in the aftermath of D.C.'s 2004 water crisis are benefiting residents in Flint, Michigan, who have been forced to deal with lead in their drinking water. "People don't realize this — the extent of the problem in D.C. was about 20 to 30 times larger than Flint," says Virginia Tech environmental engineer Marc Edwards, who has been instrumental in researching the immediate and long-term effects of lead in water in both the District of Columbia and Flint. "There was more lead poisoning, more exposure of people."

Like Flint, Idaho knows lead poisoning

By Rocky Barker, Post Registrar 04/03/16 8:00 AM

The lead poisoning in Flint, Mich. has Idaho environmental authorities taking extra steps to ensure such an event can't happen here. Jerri Henry, who runs the drinking water program for the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, saw what happened in Flint and asked herself: "Are we doing enough?"

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